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Ref: CMIN-1-20-1645

Ms Caitlin English
Deputy State Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Ms English,

Rock Fishing Safety in Victoria: COR2017005638, 2018 000135, 2018 000569, 2018 000641, 2018 000641, 2018 006486, 2019 001061 & 2019 004141

Thank you for your letter dated 22 January 2020 forwarded to the Minister for Fishing and Boating, Jaala Pulford, MP, regarding the investigation of the death of Yik Sua Hong.

I note the original correspondence from the Coroners Court was addressed to the Minister for Agriculture, Jaclyn Symes. As the matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities, it has been referred to me for response. I would like to extend my condolences to the Hong family for their loss.

Rock fishing safety is vitally important in Victoria. Work has been done here in recent years to raise education and awareness amongst fishers. A summary of this information can be viewed at <https://lsv.com.au/research/rock-fishing/>

With respect to the recommendations in your report, please note that the Victorian Fisheries Authority will work with other agencies such as Life Saving Victoria, VRFish, local councils and the multicultural community on future education strategies that promote safe fishing practices.

The VFA is also closely monitoring developments in New South Wales with their trial to regulate wearing personal floatation devices. The VFA will continue to keep a watch on this trial interstate and consider any key learnings for Victoria.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this matter. Please contact Dallas D'Silva, Director – Fisheries Policy and Licensing on (03) 8392 6846 if you would like any further information regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Dowling", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

30 / 03 / 2020